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THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

Cited in Starling 7/65

27 May 1945

The Honorable
Clarence Cannon,
Chairman,
House Appropriations Committee.

My dear Mr. Cannon:

Subsequent to the dispatch to you of the Joint Chiefs of Staff letter of 25 May 1945, the following telegram expressing the views of General Eisenhower was received. It is quoted for your information.

"When the Office of Strategic Services was first established, the Military Services were not any better prepared to utilize services than it was to render the type of service ultimately required. However, its value in this theater has been so great that there should be no thought of its elimination as an activity.

"Future value of the Office of Strategic Services in the European Theater appears to be high but is subject to certain contingencies. Valuable assistance in the prosecution of the war was effected by OSS by successful short range operations on the entire front where they obtained tactical intelligence and accomplished local sabotage. Strategic operations had the same objects as the tactical but were executed deeper within enemy territory. They were not consistently effective but had some sporadic successes of great importance. Also OSS performed admirably in helping to organize resistance groups in France, Belgium, Holland, Denmark and Norway and in assisting to supply them.

"In the future OSS will function as an intelligence information gathering agency and as a counter-espionage organization. It is expected that a net utilizing high grade personnel will feed back a wide range of intelligence and information to the theater commander through the tight

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control of the Intelligence Staff. Complete control by the Theater Commander of OSS activities within his theater or based on his theater is regarded as an essential prerequisite of efficient and smooth operations. Since the development of an Intelligence organization is a long-term project the future usefulness of OSS can be judged only on results obtained. Its success will depend in large measure on the provision for post war activities of the same high class and reliable personnel as OSS had available during the war. If suitable personnel is made available and if theater commanders controls are maintained it is considered that the value of OSS in the European Theater will continue to be very high."

Sincerely yours,

For the Joint Chiefs of Staff:

WILLIAM D. LEAHY,
Fleet Admiral, U.S. Navy,
Chief of Staff to the
Commander in Chief of the Army and Navy.

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